

Claims

1. Lens holder (1) for a device for inserting deformable intraocular lenses, by means of which an intraocular lens can be transferred from a relaxed state into an elastically deformed state so that it can be injected with the aid of the device into an eye, where it resumes its relaxed state again, characterised in that the lens holder (1) contains a flexible backing support (8) which can be deformed from an open position, in which it is designed to accommodate an intraocular lens in its relaxed state, into a closed position in which it is designed to be inserted in the device.

2. Lens holder as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that it is designed so that it can be transferred from the open into the closed position by bending the flexible backing support (8) and an increasing curvature is imparted to the flexible backing support (8) and hence also to the intraocular lens in contact with it as a result.

3. Lens holder as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the flexible backing support (8) can be elastically deformed between the open position and the closed position and is relaxed in the open position.

4. Lens holder as claimed in one of claims 1 to 2, characterised in that the flexible backing support (8) can be elastically deformed between the open position and the closed position and is relaxed in the closed position.

5. Lens holder as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the flexible backing support (8) forms a passage (18) for accommodating the deformed intraocular lens in the closed position.

6. Lens holder as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the flexible backing support (8) has two reinforced oppositely lying peripheral regions (9, 10).

7. Lens holder as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that an undercut (11) is provided at the transition from the flexible backing support to the respective peripheral region (9, 10) at either side as a means of retaining and guiding the edges of the intraocular lens.

8. Lens holder as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that at least one of the undercut peripheral regions (9, 10) has a recess (13) so that when the intraocular lens is inserted, its edge is able to pass the peripheral region of the lens holder unhindered.

9. Lens holder as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a spherical depression (12) is disposed in the flexible backing support in order to accommodate the optical part of the intraocular lens.

10. Lens holder as claimed in one of claims 6 to 9, characterised in that the flexible backing support (8) has a tapered region (14) at one end between the peripheral regions (9, 10) forming a guide for a push rod (6) for transporting the deformed intraocular lens.

11. Lens holder as claimed in one of claims 6 to 10, characterised in that the flexible backing support (8) has a cross-section which constantly varies from the centre out towards the two peripheral regions (9, 10).

12. Lens holder as claimed in one of claims 6 to 11, characterised in that means (15, 16) for mutually connecting the peripheral regions are provided in the peripheral regions (9, 10).

13. Lens holder as claimed in one of claims 6 to 12, characterised in that gripping means (17) are provided at the peripheral regions to make it easier to deform the flexible backing support (8).

14. Lens holder as claimed in one of claims 5 to 13, characterised in that the passage (18) formed in the closed position becomes narrower towards one end of the lens holder.

15. Lens holder as claimed in one of claims 5 to 14, characterised in that the transitions from the flexible backing support to the peripheral regions (9, 10) in the passage (18) formed in the closed position are designed so that the passage has a snail-shaped cross-section at one of its ends.

16. Lens holder as claimed in one of claims 7 to 15, characterised in that at least one of the undercuts (11) is larger towards one end of the lens holder in order to form an inlet portion (19) for a haptic disposed on the intraocular lens.

17. Lens holder as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is provided with catch means (20) in order to position and retain the lens holder in a housing (2) of said device.

18. Lens holder as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is made from polypropylene and is preferably manufactured integrally by an injection moulding process.